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Pottery training centres.

* 210 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of pottery training centres in the State;

(*b*) the number of students trained from each centre so far; and

(*c*) how many among the students are from Malabar and South Kanara?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Nil.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" സർ, ഒരു pottery training centre മലബാറിൽ തളിപ്പറമ്പിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. abolish ചെയ്യുവാനുള്ള കാരണം ദയവു് ചെയ്തു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി പറയുമോ ? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I would like to have notice regarding the reasons for the abolition of that centre. But I may tell the hon. Member that the Director of Industries has been asked to prepare a comprehensive scheme for starting training centres in pottery."

Sri Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" In view of the availability of large quantity of clay and in view of the fact that a large number of people are engaged in pottery manufacture in South Kanara district, may I request the Government to open a pottery training centre in that district? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may assure the hon. Member that the Director of Industries will take that aspect into consideration when he prepares the scheme."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know whether in these training centres nothing with indigenous designs is manufactured or pottery of English fashion such as cups and saucers, etc.? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" What is required by consumers will be manufactured."

Sri M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" May I know whether the Government have any plan to help this important pottery industry? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have just answered that we are preparing a comprehensive scheme for starting training centres in pottery."

Convictions under the Madras Prohibition Act in the Salem district.

* 211 *Q.*—Sri K. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state how many were arrested and convicted in the year 1952–53 for Prohibition offences in Salem district? 9·10 a.m.

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The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" The number of persons arrested under the Madras Prohibition Act in the Salem district during 1952–53 was 13,802. Eleven thousand eight hundred and forty of them were convicted."

Sri K. V. RAMASWAMI :—" சம்பந்தப்படாத பாமர மக்களை போலீசார் வழக்குகளில் ஈடுபடுத்தி அவர்களை துன்பத்திற்கும் அவமானத்திற்கும் ஆளாக்குகிறார்கள். சம்பந்தபட்டவர்களை அந்த வழக்குகளில் சம்பந்தப் படுத்தாமல் அவர்களை விடுதலை செய்யும் போலீசார்கள் மீது சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்கப்போகிறார்கள்."

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" I have no information about it."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to tell the House, out of the total number convicted, what is the number of men convicted and what is the number of women convicted? "

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" I have no information with me on that point now."

Sri A. APPU :—" May I know, Sir, whether this district occupies the first rank in the matter of Prohibition offences? "

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" A separate question may be put."

Elections to panchayats.

* 212 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether panchayat elections in the State have been completed;

(*b*) whether all the panchayats in which elections have been held, were those in existence prior to the passing of the Madras Village Panchayats Act of 1950; and

(*c*) whether any new panchayats have been formed under the provisions of the Madras Village Panchayats Act of 1950 ?

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" (*a*) Yes, with the exception of a very small number.

" (*b*) Of the panchayats for which elections have been held a few had been newly constituted after the inception of the Madras village Panchayats Act, 1950.

" (*c*) Yes."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, are the Government aware of the observations of the Honourable High Court regarding the desirability of secret ballot in panchayat elections, and would the Government abolish the system of voting by show of hands and introduce the secret ballot system in respect of elections to panchayats to be formed? "